



MINUTES BOARD OF LIVESTOCK MEETING

MARCH 14, 2011
ROOM 319, 301 N ROBERTS
HELENA, MT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jan French, Chair, cattle producer
Ed Waldner, swine producer
John Lehfeltdt, sheep producer
Linda Nielsen, cattle producer

Brett DeBruycker, cattle producer
Jeffery Lewis, dairy producer
Stan Boone, cattle producer

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turcotte, Milk & Egg Bureau
George Harris, Centralized Services
Dr Bill Layton, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
Christian Mackay, Executive Officer
Dr Eric Liska, Animal Health
John Grainger, Brands Enforcement

Carol Olmstead, Meat Inspection Bureau
Dr Jeanne Rankin, Animal Health
Dr Zaluski, State Veterinarian, Animal Health
Sherry Rust, Executive Assistant
Dr Tahnee Szymanski, Animal Health

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Kraig Glazier, USDA Wildlife Services
Ariel Overstreet, MT Stockgrowers Assn
Paul Ringling, MT Cattleman's Assn
Ken McDonald, Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Neil Anderson, Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Quinn Holzer, Legislative Fiscal Division
Quentin Kujala, FWP
Jim Logan, WLSB, Wyoming State Veterinarian
Les Graham, MT Livestock Auction Markets Assn

1:00 PM CALL TO ORDER

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Board Communications:

- Jan French, Hobson
 - covered in ice all winter, glad to see the ice go, but have mud all around now
- Linda Nielsen
 - \$1.69 calves, 96.6 inches of snow this winter, now predictions of 100% chance of flooding
- Jeff Lewis, Corvallis
 - dairy prices are going up, cull cow prices are up, see what grain does
- Stan Boone, Ingomar
 - long hard winter, ice all winter, now water a problem, lot of roads washed out,
- Ed Waldner, Chester
 - tough winter to get products out and in, roads have been plugged all the time, county has been good about plowing, clearing out a little bit now and starting to flood
- Brett DeBruycker, Dutton
 - fair amount of moisture, calves are not doing so hot with the cold, then wet weather
- John Lehfeltdt, Lavina
 - \$5-7 wool, \$5 lambs, looking better

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Approval of Minutes:

Stan Boone moved to approve the January 18 and 19, 2011 board meeting minutes as presented. John Lehfeltd seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Interim Authorizations and Activities:

There were no interim activities during this time period.

Executive Officer Reports:

Ed Waldner moved to approve the executive officer reports as presented. Jeff Lewis seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

1:30 PM DIVISION REPORTS

Animal Health, Dr Zaluski

Guest Speaker - Jim Logan, Wyoming State Vet, Western States Livestock Health Association

- Wyoming's DSA and the 3 recent Brucellosis cases
 - provided a handout and map of the quarantine area
 - Oct 3rd
 - hot cows found at Worland Livestock Auction, east & south of the DSA
 - quarantined the entire 20 head consignment and the herd of origin
 - quarantined about 20 contact and surrounding herds
 - now winnowed down to 8
 - the quarantined herd has undergone three tests with another one due post calving and pregnancy testing again this fall
 - the second herd
 - discovered two out of ten positives bison two weeks after the first herd
 - domestic bison herd about 15 miles away from the first (cattle) herd
 - about 600 head herd is behind a 5 strand electric fence, only leave dead as slaughter animals
 - ranches directly adjacent have tested negative
 - have only done one whole herd test
 - about 20 showed positive and have subsequently been removed
 - look at another whole herd test in the fall
 - no known direct contact from the first herd with the second herd
 - third herd
 - discovered late January
 - Metetse area of southern Park Co.
 - affected members of herd were offered for sale at Billings Livestock Auction along with non-affected Two Dot Ranch cattle
 - they had not comingled, just offered in the same consignment
 - contacts tested negative
 - 3rd herd did whole herd test removed 5 more, undergoing another whole test this week and every 30 days thereafter - so if negative they can be moved to summer range with an assurance test in the fall
 - Park Co. is about 100 miles from Wyoming feed grounds
 - wolves may have moved elk from feed grounds into Park Co.
 - common link between all herds is elk

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- elk sero positive is probably 10 to 20%
 - in every affected herd -every single animal was vaccinated
 - trying to get DNA evidence on the affected herds - do know it is elk type of bacteria
- DSA includes Teton Co (south of Yellowstone), Sublet, 2/3 of Lincoln Co, western third of Fremont Co, and part of Park Co.
 - will recommend either an additional buffer to the DSA or include all of Park Co.
 - will be doing surveillance in a larger area that he feels will be infected\
- Wyoming is a mandatory all female cattle kept for breeding must be calfhood vaccinated
 - unvaccinated adult cattle are allowed in but must then be adult vaccinated
- the legislature in the last 4 to 6 years have appropriated funds for testing
 - payments go to vets, and livestock markets(\$5/head vets, \$3/head and \$2 head to markets for testing)
 - pay for calf vaccinations and heifer spaying under certain conditions
 - booster vaccination pay \$3.50
- Action Item #1-03-2011 Non OCV Import Request
 - from veterinarian in Wyoming
 - jersey heifer 20 months of age may be passing through Montana from Idaho
 - tested brucellosis and TB negative
 - going to Greybull Wyoming

John Lehfeldt moved to allow the animal to travel through Montana with the restriction of no contact. Linda Nielsen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Action Item #2-03-2011 Trichomoniasis Administrative Rule DRAFT
reviewed basic concepts to board on ideas for proposed changes
 - Trich cases are regional therefore changes include the following suggestions
 1. eliminate the change of ownership testing except for grazing in common, imports, and areas of Montana where Trich is known to exist
 2. if you are a herd owner grazing in common, with a baseline negative test and a signed health plan will not be required to test
 3. fine tune follow up on positives
 - requested input from the board to continue to pursue Trich rule changes or drop the subject

Brett DeBruycker moved to move forward and provide a draft of proposed Trich rule changes for the board to study. Jeff Lewis seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Elk surveillance findings in Gravellys
 - Neal Anderson presented a power point regarding the results of the 2008-2010 Fish, Wildlife and Parks study
 - included 30 hunting districts around Yellowstone National Park
 - tracked elk movement, surveillance and epidemiology
 - with a goal 100 female elk plus hunter harvested animals
 - to determine presence/absence of disease outside of the DSA

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- preliminary results showed 12 reactor elk out of 100 tested
- improve understanding of distributions
- Action Item #3-03-2011 Salmonella Pulum testing, Dr Szymanski
 - it is a disease of poultry regulated by USDA poultry exported from the state
 - we have eight licensed NPIP flocks in the state now
 - certification program for lay persons and veterinarians where the state provides training for certification for exporting
 - this proposed training includes videos and field training costs run from nothing to \$60 for training
 - small flock owners are requesting this program to keep costs down and availability of inspectors
 - currently get two to three requests a month about the NPIP program

Linda Nielsen moved that Animal Health develop a program (a copy of the proposed program to the board) and provide Salmonella Pulum testing training to up to 20 lay persons for certification for providing testing as requested. John Lehfelt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Meat Inspection Bureau, Carol Olmstead

- Western State Regional Meeting
 - usually held in Reno
 - first time hosted here in Helena
 - expect approximately 75 people to attend
 - meetings on Wednesday & Thursday
 - with a field trip to Yellowstone Park tomorrow

3:50 PM

RECESS

4:00 PM

RECONVENE

Animal Health, Dr Zaluski

- Bison Update
 - Governor Schweitzer has been pushing for three things
 1. federal update in regulations (accomplished)
 2. population control in the park (not happening yet)
 3. buffer zone
 - implementing on the north side with year round tolerance
 - DOT installing a bison cattle guard and fencing at the end of Yankee Jim Canyon to stop bison moving north into cattle areas
 - the two herds (totaling 48 head) in the canyon will be fenced in
 - owners say they can live with the bison
 - area past the bison guard would be an absolute shoot em zone
 - increases tolerance in the canyon and onto park service lands
 - all other cattle are in areas further north of the bison gate
 - program means increased testing and vaccination at the quarantine facility and allowance of clean bison into the buffer area

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Dr. Bill Layton

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- Updates
 - busy time of year, weak calves, lambs next
 - proposed fee changes will be delayed
 - need to keep on the lab project
 - find out where the bond issue stands
 - Christian said we are still part of the university funding
 - committee needs to meet and decide what the next step is - either conference calls or meetings
 - will be offering the pathologist position this week

Producer Organization Updates

Paul Ringling, Montana Cattlemen Assn will comment tomorrow

Public Comment

5:10 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Executive Session

Personal right to privacy exceeds public right to know.

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MARCH 15, 2011
ROOM 319, 301 N ROBERTS
HELENA, MT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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Ed Waldner, swine producer
John Lehfelddt, sheep producer
Linda Nielsen, cattle producer

Brett DeBruycker, cattle producer
Jeffery Lewis, dairy producer
Stan Boone, cattle producer

STAFF PRESENT:

Christian Mackay, Executive Officer
George Harris, Centralized Services
John Grainger, Brands Enforcement
Marty Clark, Brands Enforcement

Dan Turcotte, Milk & Egg Bureau
Sherry Rust, minute taker
George Edwards, Livestock Loss Board

Public Present:

Kraig Glazier, USDA Wildlife Services
Paul Ringling, MT Cattlemens Assn
Ariel Overstreet, MT Stockgrowers Assn
Mark DeBoo, Diamond D Angus

Les Graham, Montana Livestock Market Assn
Quinn Holzer, Legislative Fiscal Division
Russ Offerdahl, Box O Breeders
Don DeBoo, Diamond D Angus

8:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Division Reports

Centralized Services, George Harris

- FY2012-13 Fiscal note and budget review
 - reviewed the major fiscal notes request of the department (over 40)
 - reviewed HB2 and where it stands - not looking good
 - estimates the need to set per capita at the maximum for at least the next two to three years in order to keep the department on its feet
 - did not approve the request to purchase brand enforcement trucks (five trucks per year at \$26,000)
 - did not approve the proposed \$66,000 for completion of brand rerecord
 - did not approve replacement of computers as per IT schedule (\$15,600 per year)
 - Christian Mackay said it is imperative to get any changes while the bill is in the Senate
 - Les Graham commented that producer organizations are working hard behind the scenes to get requests restored
 - Christian said personnel will have to be cut should the the budget cuts remain
- Fiscal 2011 budget status update
 - reviewed budget status of each division and projected budget to FYE 2011
- State special revenue

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- reviewed revenue receipts in the three major state special revenue accounts; per capita, brands, and animal health
- LLRMB--George Edwards reported
 - HB287, hide bill third reading today
 - auction in Vegas hide brought \$100,000 for a wildlife sheep organization
 - could be an excellent fund raising tool
 - use sportsmen organizations to auction around 15 hides a year
 - HB469 proposes to shorten the program's name to Livestock Loss Board
 - once name change bill goes through the specialty license plate will be completed
 - 2010 predator loss numbers
 - 174 animals, \$98,800 paid out
 - sheep losses down from 2009, cattle around the same
 - 5 registered horses in 2010
 - received \$140,000 federal funds last year, not expected to receive any more

USDA Wildlife Services (Predator Damage Management), Kraig Glazier

- continuing resolution ends Friday
 - 20% mandatory cut in travel
 - pretty dire looking for the tri state funding \$500,000 split MT, ID, WY is probably not going to continue
 - will require work reduction or forced retirement
- Tim Graff (helicopter pilot) redeployed to Afghanistan
 - leaving April 13 for a year
 - close to getting a replacement - retired former predator pilot
- wolf numbers
 - FWP count 566 up 80%
 - 108 verified packs
 - tri state area totals 1733 last year, now 1651(slight drop)
- coyotes are a big problem right now, massive numbers

Milk & Egg Bureau

- feed grading now started at Horizon Colony (temporary)
 - inspection # P1152 number shows where eggs are coming from
 - cartons have USDA shield and UEP logo on them
 - Montana Egg plant in Great Falls might be up and running by July
 - department bills feds for Roy's (inspection) time and mileage USDA-
 - we get 75% the rest goes to USDA
 - once the Great Falls plant is up fees will go into the state trust fund and we will bill the plant directly
- update on the Jersey cow imports
 - shipping to grade B plant
 - problems with quality
- dual date issue

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- another retailer is obtaining milk from the same supplier/shipper as Coremark
- Coremark will file finding of facts in April,
- department will file in June
- expect the judge's decision in July

10:00 AM	RECESS
10: 20 AM	RECONVENE

Brands Enforcement, John Grainger

- Freeze branding
 - met with area managers (Ernie, Travis, Marty Clark, Christian) to discuss issues
 - when they leave the state inspection shows "no brand" but it is (freeze) branded
 - mortgage- can only be on a hot iron brand,
 - if the next owner freeze brands the mortgage may still show when sold by the freeze brand owner
 - checked with other states to see their protocol
 - conference calls with producer organizations
 - freeze branding may make investigation harder, but only hurts the freeze brand owner
 - either go back to the industry or not address it (leave it as is now)

Comments:

Mark DeBoo

- supplying a niche market
- provided a map showing western states status
- only New Mexico has the same law as Montana
- other states freeze brands are allowed or are legal-
- provided photos of hot iron vs. freeze brand
- better clarity and can be seen further-
- marketing on both west and east coasts all natural beef raised the "humane" way -
- would not be able to market to their customers if hot iron branded them
- cattle run together freeze brand is clearly discernable - different than hot iron

Russ Offerdahl

- always hot iron branded but noticed significantly less loss once he started freeze branding numbers on his cattle
- hot iron branded cattle gain weight slower
- freeze brand hides bring more money

Paul Ringling, speaking for Kim Baker of Montana Cattlemens Assn

- MCA is opposed to legalizing freeze brands

Ariel Overstreet, Montana Stockgrowers Assn

- MSGA does not support freeze branding as legal

John Grainger

- by law cannot freeze brand using your (recorded) brand or anything that appears to be a brand on cattle
- can be used for numbers etc
- ARM rule is what dictates what is allowed
 - can change ARM rules to allow freeze branding

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- only your brand in your location

The board tabled this issue suggesting petitioners attend producer organization meetings providing information and views expressed here. The board will take up it up again at the September meeting when more organization information is available.

Christian Mackay directed enforcement officers to not issue any tickets on this issue until the board has enough input to make a decision.

- Beef Council
 - if votes go the way it appears now will probably take it back in July
 - new collection process might make it easier
 - have two envelopes available to inspectors
 1. money goes in one which is directly to BC
 2. department paperwork in the other mailed to Helena office
- Rerecord
 - 37% done this morning
 - 66% of those done thru the web
 - 3% walk-ins

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Ringling, MCA

- asked for clarification does it cost more to collect beef council than the 5% reimbursement
 - the answer is yes
 - it cost the department about \$75,000 more than the 5% paid to the department by BC
 - that extra cost is covered by per capita operating funds

NEXT BOARD MEETING

**MAY 16TH (ONE DAY MEETING)
STARTING AT 8:00 AM**

(Board meetings will be scheduled on the third Monday & Tuesday of every other month unless otherwise noted.)

11:50 AM ADJOURNMENT